



Winter Newsletter And Schedule of Events



December, 2012 to February, 2013

Welcome to Rock Creek Park!



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U.S. Department of the Interior

Rock Creek Park

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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

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Hello and welcome to Rock Creek Park!

Winter is always a beautiful time to visit your national park. Leafless trees offer deeper views into the forest and surrounding urban landscape, and snowfall can add a touch of magic to the park.

This winter also marks the start of several new and exciting ranger-led programs in Rock Creek Park. On Saturday mornings, families can learn about the origin of food as they grind grain with a mortar and pestle at historic Peirce Mill. Later, they can discover the benefits of trees during a special scavenger hunt through the winter landscape. And twice a month, they can embark on voyages of animal discovery as they hike our newly established TRACK Trail.

The return of crisp, clear skies is the perfect time to learn more about astronomy in the Rock Creek Park Planetarium. Finally, come learn about history and tradition at the Old Stone House, one of the oldest structures in Washington, D.C. Seasonal celebrations were a part of life in the house, and will come alive during our Colonial Christmas program in December. In February, learn about Georgetown's black heritage on a ranger-guided Georgetown walk.

Enjoy learning more about your national park and winter programs on the pages below. Warm wishes to you during this holiday season and in the new year.

Tara D. Morrison, Superintendent
Superintendent



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December Schedule of Events

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1

Dumbarton Oaks Park Conservancy Volunteer Event

9:00 AM at Dumbarton Oaks Park (Lovers Lane Entrance)
Join in the battle against invasive plant species. Remove English ivy from the naturalistic landscape of Beatrix Farrand's Dumbarton Oaks Park in Georgetown. Email aaldrich@dopark.org to register. Ages 16 to adult.

Civil War Round Table: Gore Vidal's "Lincoln" Film

9:30 AM at the Nature Center
Join this monthly meeting for a viewing of Gore Vidal's film about President Lincoln. The group will also plan a time to see the new Steven Spielberg film, "Lincoln." Ages 13 to adult.

Be an Animal Athlete!

10:00 AM at Broad Branch Rd. and Rock Creek (Picnic Grove 2 West) Are you ready for the hawk stance, white-tailed high jump, and green frog hop? Join the fun this Saturday morning on the two-mile TRACK Trail. Bring water and close-toed shoes and get ready to exercise. Ages 6 to 12 and families.

Show and Tell: Letters from Civil War Soldiers

11:30 AM at the Nature Center
Letters from the frontline offer us a window into the thoughts and experiences of Civil War soldiers. Explore and discuss some of these letters. Feel free to bring your own letter to share as well! For help finding a Civil War letter, email Ranger Michael Zwelling at Michael.Zwelling@nps.gov. Ages 13 to adult.

Autumn Night Sky: When You Wish Upon a Star

1:00 PM at the Planetarium
Discover the brightest stars, planets, and constellations in this month's night sky. Hear their stories in the only planetarium in the National Park System. Ages 5 to adult.

Exploring the Universe: The End of the World... Not

4:00 PM at the Planetarium
Discover how the end of the Mayan calendar relates to the night sky and the story behind the ancient prophecy of the December 21st apocalypse. Ages 7 to adult.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

Colonial Christmas

12:00 PM - 3:00 PM at Old Stone House
Drop by one of the oldest buildings in the nation's capital this afternoon and discover the holiday traditions of Colonial America. Children will have the opportunity to make a colonial ornament, weather permitting. All ages welcome.

Autumn Night Sky: When You Wish Upon a Star

1:00 PM at the Planetarium
See description for Saturday, December 1st.

Exploring the Universe

4:00 PM at the Planetarium
Join us in the planetarium for a program exploring the sun, moon, stars, planets, and other aspects of the world of astronomy. Ages 7 to adult.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5

Young Planetarium

4:00 PM at the Planetarium
Calling all young astronomers! Join us in the planetarium and learn about the December night sky. Ages 4 to 10 and families.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7

Creature Feature

4:00 PM at the Nature Center
Calling all kids! Assist a ranger in feeding the Nature Center's live animals and learn about park wildlife. All ages welcome.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

Dumbarton Oaks Park Conservancy Volunteer Event

9:00 AM at Dumbarton Oaks Park
See description for December 1st.

Rock Creek Conservancy Volunteer Event

9:00 AM at Normanstone Parkway (34th Street Entrance)
Assist the Rock Creek Conservancy in the battle against Invasive, non-native plant species. Email kzeiter@rockcreekconservancy.org to register. Ages 16 to adult.

TREEific Trees!

10:00 AM at the Nature Center
Calling all young foresters! Plant your roots at the Nature Center this morning and discover your urban forest. Learn how to identify common trees and discover why trees are our friends through special games and activities. Ages 6 to 12 and families.

Peirce Mill Open House

11:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Peirce Mill
Enjoy special activities at Peirce Mill geared for the whole family. Children can make special holiday ornaments. Parents and other adults can explore the mill with park rangers and enjoy a book signing with Steve Dryden, author of "Peirce Mill: 200 years in the Nation's Capital." All ages welcome.



American Holly, a tree native to Rock Creek Park, was commonly used in colonial times as holiday décor. Learn more Colonial Christmas traditions on Sundays in December at Old Stone House. NPS Photo.

December Schedule of Events

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8 continued

Autumn Night Sky: When You Wish Upon a Star

1:00 PM at the Planetarium

Discover the brightest stars, planets, and constellations in this month's night sky. Hear their stories in the only planetarium in the National Park System. Ages 5 to adult.

Exploring the Universe: The End of the World... Not

4:00 PM at the Planetarium

Discover how the end of the Mayan calendar relates to the night sky and the story behind the ancient prophecy of the December 21st apocalypse. Ages 7 to adult.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

Colonial Christmas

12:00 PM - 3:00 PM at Old Stone House

Drop by one of the oldest buildings in the nation's capital this afternoon and discover the holiday traditions of Colonial America. Children will have the opportunity to make a colonial ornament, weather permitting. All ages welcome.

Autumn Night Sky: When You Wish Upon a Star

1:00 PM at the Planetarium

See description for December 8th.

Exploring the Universe

4:00 PM at the Planetarium

Join us in the planetarium for a program exploring the sun, moon, stars, planets, and other aspects of the world of astronomy. Ages 7 to adult.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12

Young Planetarium

4:00 PM at the Planetarium

Calling all young astronomers! Join us in the planetarium and learn about the December night sky. Ages 4 to 10 and families.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14

Creature Feature

4:00 PM at the Nature Center

Calling all kids! Assist a ranger in feeding the Nature Center's live animals and learn about park wildlife. All ages welcome.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15

Season's Greening: Sweep the Creek and Talk Trash

10:00 AM at Peirce Mill

Help protect your national park this morning. Learn all about litter problems in the park and then join a ranger on a hunt for trash. Gloves and bags provided. Ages 6 to 12 and families.

Autumn Night Sky: When You Wish Upon a Star

1:00 PM at the Planetarium

See description for December 8th.

Exploring the Universe: the End of the World... Not

4:00 PM at the Planetarium

See description for December 8th.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

Fort DeRussy Hike

10:00 AM at the Nature Center

Join a ranger for a short hike to a Civil War fortress. Discover Fort DeRussy and the Battle of Fort Stevens on this one-mile roundtrip hike. Ages 9 to adult.

Colonial Christmas

12:00 PM - 3:00 PM at Old Stone House

See description for December 9th.

Autumn Night Sky: When You Wish Upon a Star

1:00 PM at the Planetarium

See description for December 9th.



Don't be trashy: because it flows to Rock Creek! Children can learn about a major environmental problem facing the park and then participate in a creek sweep on December 15th. NPS Photo.

Exploring the Universe

4:00 PM at the Planetarium

See description for December 9th.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19

Young Planetarium

4:00 PM at the Planetarium

See description for December 12th.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21

Creature Feature

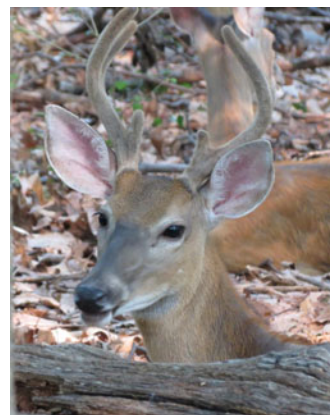
4:00 PM at the Nature Center

See description for Friday, December 14th.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22

Be an Animal Athlete!

10:00 AM at Broad Branch Rd. and Rock Creek (Picnic Grove 2 West) Are you ready for the hawk stance, white-tailed high jump, and green frog hop? Whether this is your first or second time doing the circuit, join the fun this Saturday morning on the two-mile Track Trail. Bring water and close-toed shoes. Be prepared to exercise. Ages 6 to 12 and families.



Children can try and jump as high as this White-tailed deer during the "Be an Animal Athlete" program. NPS Photo.

December Schedule of Events

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22 CONTINUED

Winter Night Sky: When You Wish Upon a Star

1:00 PM at the Planetarium

Discover the brightest stars, planets, and constellations in this month's night sky. Hear their stories in the only planetarium in the National Park System. Ages 5 to adult.

Exploring the Universe: The End of the World... Not

4:00 PM at the Planetarium

Discover how the end of the Mayan calendar relates to the night sky and the story behind the ancient prophecy of the December 21st apocalypse. Ages 7 to adult.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

Colonial Christmas

Drop by one of the oldest buildings in the nation's capital this afternoon and discover the holiday traditions of Colonial America. Children will have the opportunity to make a colonial ornament, weather permitting. All ages welcome.

Winter Night Sky: When You Wish Upon a Star

1:00 PM at the Planetarium

See description for December 22nd.

Exploring the Universe

4:00 PM at the Planetarium

Join us in the planetarium for a program exploring the sun, moon, stars, planets, and other aspects of the world of astronomy. Ages 7 to adult.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25 — Happy Holidays! Park buildings closed

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26

Young Planetarium

4:00 PM at the Planetarium

Calling all young astronomers! Join us in the planetarium and learn about the December night sky. Ages 4 to 10 and families.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28

Creature Feature

4:00 PM at the Nature Center

Assist a ranger in feeding the Nature Center's live animals and learn about park wildlife during this children's program. All ages welcome.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29

Saturday Morning Cartoons in the Planetarium

10:00 AM at the Planetarium

Bring your sleeping bag, pillow, and astronomical mind and discover the cartoon characters in the night sky during this unique planetarium program. Ages 4 to 10 and families.

Planetarium Film: Zula Patrol—Down to Earth

11:00 AM at the Planetarium

Follow the Zula Patrol as they explore the early landscapes of planet Earth and try to catch a littering villain. Ages 4 to 10 and families.

Winter Night Sky: When You Wish Upon a Star

1:00 PM at the Planetarium

See description for Saturday, December 22nd.

Planetarium Film: Oasis in Space

2:00 PM at the Planetarium

Discover the planets in our solar system during this state-of-the-art planetarium film. Ages 7 to adult.

Planetarium Film: Black Holes—the Edge of Infinity

2:30 PM at the Planetarium

Learn about stars, galaxies, and mysterious black holes during this unique planetarium film. Ages 7 to adult.

Planetarium Film: Dawn of the Space Age

3:00 PM at the Planetarium

Explore the history of the space age, from Sputnik of the 1950s to the International Space Station of today. Ages 7 to adult.

Exploring the Universe: The End of the World... Not

4:00 PM at the Planetarium

See description for December 22nd.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30

Winter Night Sky: When You Wish Upon a Star

1:00 PM at the Planetarium

See description for Saturday, December 22nd.

Exploring the Universe

4:00 PM at the Planetarium

See description for December 23rd.

Mark your calendars. Come to the 2012 Rock Creek Park Planetarium Film Festival on Saturday, December 29th.



A park ranger at work in the only planetarium in the National Park System. Join us for a planetarium program or special film. NPS Photo.

January Schedule of Events

TUESDAY, JANUARY 1 — Happy New Year! Park buildings closed

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2

Young Planetarium

4:00 PM at the Planetarium

Calling all young astronomers! Join us in the planetarium and learn about the January night sky. Ages 4 to 10 and families.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 4

Creature Feature

4:00 PM at the Nature Center

Calling all kids! Assist a ranger in feeding the Nature Center's live animals and learn about park wildlife. All ages welcome.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5

Dumbarton Oaks Park Conservancy Volunteer Event

9:00 AM at Dumbarton Oaks Park (Lovers Lane Entrance)

Join in the battle against invasive plant species. Remove English ivy from the naturalistic landscape of Beatrix Farrand's Dumbarton Oaks Park in Georgetown. Email aaldrich@dopark.org to register. Ages 16 to adult.

Civil War Round Table: Gore Vidal's "Lincoln" Film

9:30 AM at the Nature Center

Join this monthly meeting for a viewing of Gore Vidal's film about President Lincoln. Ages 13 to adult.

Nature in Winter

10:00 AM at the Nature Center

Learn how plants and animals survive winter in Rock Creek Park. Join a ranger for a half-mile hike. Ages 6 to 12.

Tunes from the Frontlines: Civil War Music

11:30 AM at the Nature Center

Battle Hymn of the Republic, John Brown's Body, and Dixie Land: Do you know the meanings of these songs? Explore Civil War music and its place in 1800s culture. Ages 12 to adult.

Winter Night Sky: When You Wish Upon a Star

1:00 PM at the Planetarium

Discover the brightest stars, planets, and Constellations in this month's night sky. Hear their stories in the planetarium. Ages 5 to adult.

Exploring the Universe: Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

4:00 PM at the Planetarium

Explore the birth, life, death, and diversity of stars during this planetarium program. Ages 7 to adult.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6

History Hike

10:00 AM at the Nature Center

A Civil War fortress, poet's cabin, and historic creek ford: explore the unique history of Rock Creek Park on this two-mile ranger-led hike. Ages 10 to adult.

Winter Night Sky: When You Wish Upon a Star

1:00 PM at the Planetarium

Discover the brightest stars, planets, and constellations this month. Hear their stories in the only planetarium in the National Park System. Ages 5 to adult.

Exploring the Universe

4:00 PM at the Planetarium

Join us in the planetarium for a program exploring the sun, moon, stars, planets, and other aspects of the world of astronomy. Ages 7 to adult.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9

Young Planetarium

4:00 PM at the Planetarium

Calling all young astronomers! Join us in the planetarium and learn about the January night sky. Ages 4 to 10 and families.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11

Rock Creek Conservancy Volunteer Event

1:00 PM at Normanstone Parkway (34th Street Entrance)

Assist the Rock Creek Conservancy and the National Park Service in the battle against invasive, exotic plant species by removing English Ivy. Email kzeiter@rockcreekconservancy.org to register. Ages 16 to adult.

Creature Feature

4:00 PM at the Nature Center

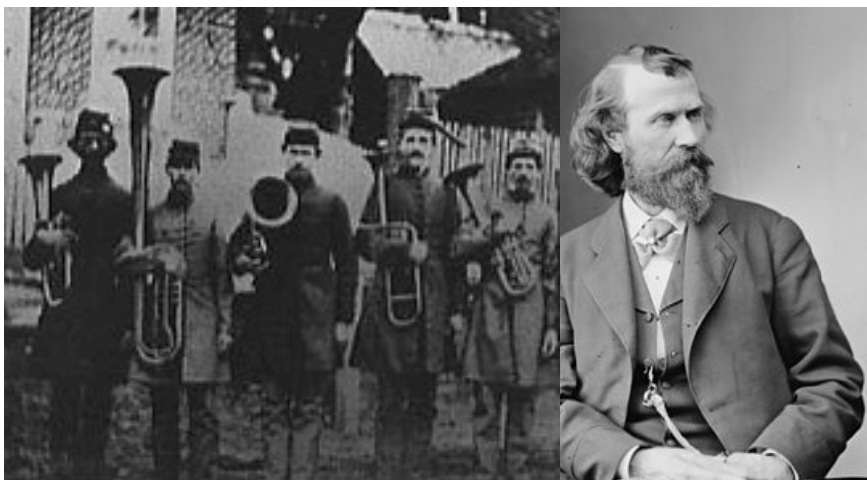
See description for January 4th.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12

The Civil War for Kids!

10:00 AM at the Nature Center

Make hardtack, dress as a Confederate or Union soldier, and explore a Civil War fortress during this unique Civil War program for children. Ages 6 to 12 and families.



Discover the diverse history of Rock Creek Park by attending special programs during the first weekend of 2013. On January 5th, discover the meanings behind popular Civil War tunes that were played by soldiers. Then on January 6th, learn about world-famous Poet Joaquin Miller (pictured at right), the self-described "Byron of the Rockies" and "Poet of the Sierras," during the History Hike. Did you know that Joaquin Miller's cabin is in the park? Photo courtesy of the Library of Congress.

January Schedule of Events

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12

Winter Night Sky: When You Wish Upon a Star

1:00 PM at the Planetarium

Discover the brightest stars, planets, and constellations in this month's night sky. Hear their stories in the only planetarium in the National Park System. Ages 5 to adult.

Exploring the Universe: Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

4:00 PM at the Planetarium

Explore the birth, life, death, and diversity of stars during this unique planetarium program. Ages 7 to adult.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13

Fort DeRussy Hike

10:00 AM at the Nature Center

Join a ranger for a short hike to a Civil War fortress. Discover Fort DeRussy and the Battle of Fort Stevens on this one-mile roundtrip hike. Ages 9 to adult.

Winter Night Sky: When You Wish Upon a Star

1:00 PM at the Planetarium

See description for January 12th.

Exploring the Universe

4:00 PM at the Planetarium

Join us in the planetarium for a program exploring the sun, moon, stars, planets, and other aspects of the world of astronomy. Ages 7 to adult.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16

Young Planetarium

4:00 PM at the Planetarium

Calling all young astronomers! Join us in the planetarium and learn about the January night sky. Ages 4 to 10 and families.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 18

Creature Feature

4:00 PM at the Nature Center

Calling all kids! Assist a ranger in feeding the Nature Center's live animals and learn about park wildlife. All ages welcome.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service with Rock Creek Conservancy

9:00 AM at Woodley Park Metro Station (Red Line)

Assist the Rock Creek Conservancy in the battle against invasive, non-native plant species by removing English Ivy along the northern section of the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway. Meet outside the Woodley Park Metro Station. Email kzeiter@rockcreekconservancy.org to register. Ages 16 to adult.

Be an Animal Athlete!

10:00 AM at Broad Branch Road and Rock Creek (Picnic Grove 2 West) Are you ready for the hawk stance, white-tailed high jump, and green frog hop? Join the fun this Saturday morning on the two mile Track Trail. Bring water and close-toed shoes. Be prepared to exercise. Ages 6 to 12 and families.

Winter Night Sky: When You Wish Upon a Star

1:00 PM at the Planetarium

See description for January 12th.

Exploring the Universe: Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

4:00 PM at the Planetarium

See description for January 12th.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20

Dumbarton Oaks Park Conservancy Volunteer Event

9:00 AM at Dumbarton Oaks Park

Join the Dumbarton Oaks Park Conservancy and the National Park Service in the battle against invasive plant species. Remove nonnative ivy from the naturalistic landscape of Dumbarton Oaks Park in Georgetown. Long pants and close-toed shoes required. Email aaldrich@dopark.org to register. Ages 16 to adult.



Protect your national park from invaders. Volunteer with Dumbarton Oaks Park Conservancy or Rock Creek Conservancy and learn about and remove invasive, non-native plant species from the landscape. NPS Photo.

Winter Night Sky: When You Wish Upon a Star

1:00 PM at the Planetarium

See description for January 12th.

Exploring the Universe

4:00 PM at the Planetarium

See description for January 13th.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23

Young Planetarium

4:00 PM at the Planetarium

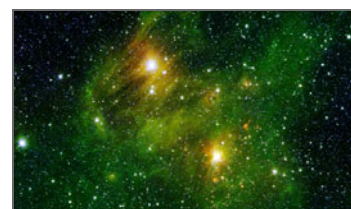
See description for January 16th.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25

Creature Feature

4:00 PM at the Nature Center

See description for January 18th.



Learn all about stars on Saturdays in January at 4:00 pm. Photo courtesy of NASA.

January Schedule of Events

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26

Peirce Mill for Kids!

10:00 AM at Peirce Mill

Discover Rock Creek Park's gristmill through interactive games and activities. Ages 6 to 12 and families.

Winter Night Sky: When You Wish Upon a Star

1:00 PM at the Planetarium

Discover the brightest stars, planets, and constellations in this month's night sky. Hear their stories in the only planetarium in the National Park System. Ages 5 to adult.

Exploring the Universe: Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

4:00 PM at the Planetarium

Explore the birth, life, death, and diversity of stars during this unique planetarium program. Ages 7 to adult.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27

Winter Night Sky: When You Wish Upon a Star

1:00 PM at the Planetarium

See description for January 26th.

Exploring the Universe

4:00 PM at the Planetarium

Join us in the planetarium for a program exploring the sun, moon, stars, planets, and other aspects of the world of astronomy. Ages 7 to adult.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30

Young Planetarium

4:00 PM at the Planetarium

Calling all young astronomers! Join us in the planetarium and learn about the January night sky. Ages 4 to 10 and families.

February Schedule of Events

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1

Creature Feature

4:00 PM at the Nature Center

Calling all kids! Assist a ranger in feeding the Nature Center's live animals and learn about park wildlife. All ages welcome.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Dumbarton Oaks Park Conservancy Volunteer Event

9:00 AM at Dumbarton Oaks Park

Join the Dumbarton Oaks Park Conservancy in the battle against invasive plant species. Remove non-native ivy from the naturalistic landscape of Dumbarton Oaks Park in Georgetown. Long pants and close-toed shoes required. Email aaldrich@dopark.org to register. Ages 16 to adult.

Civil War Round Table: African American Experience

9:30 AM at the Nature Center.

Discuss African American perspectives and experiences during the Civil War. Ages 13 to adult.

Colonial Games

10:00 AM at Old Stone House.

Discover games and toys that children played with during the 1770s. Be prepared to run around, have fun, and make new friends! Ages 6 to 12 and families.

African Americans in the Civil War: Colored Troops

11:00 AM at the Nature Center

Discover the role that African American troops played in the Washington, D.C. area during the Civil War. Ages 13 to adult.

Winter Night Sky: Love in the Sky

1:00 PM at the Planetarium

Discover the brightest stars, planets, and constellations in the night sky this month and hear their love stories in honor of Valentine's Day! Ages 5 to adult.

African American Georgetown Walk

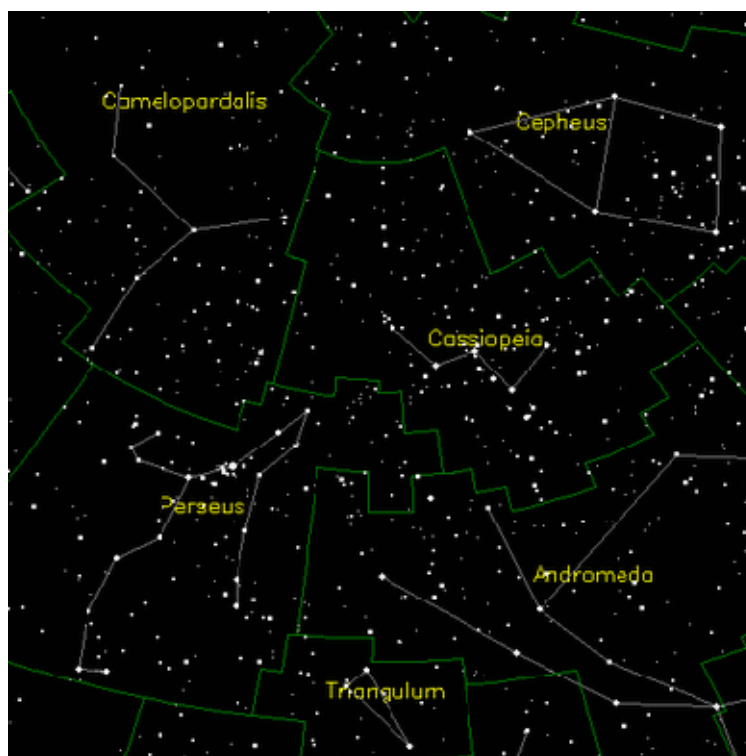
2:00 PM at Old Stone House

Explore stories of sacrifice, adversity, and success on this tour of Herring Hill, a vibrant 1800s black community in the heart of Georgetown. Ages 13 to adult.

Exploring the Universe

4:00 PM at the Planetarium

See description for January 27th.



Did you know that Perseus slayed Cetus the sea monster, and that Perseus and Andromeda then fell in love? Discover this and other love stories in the night sky at 1:00 pm on Saturdays in February. Star chart courtesy of Wikipedia.

February Schedule of Events

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Winter Night Sky: When You Wish Upon a Star

1:00 PM at the Planetarium

Discover the brightest stars, planets, and constellations in this month's night sky. Hear their stories in the only planetarium in the National Park System. Ages 5 to adult.

Night Sky to Freedom

2:00 PM at the Planetarium

Learn about the Underground Railroad and discover how enslaved African Americans used the night sky to escape northward during this 30-minute program in the planetarium. Ages 10 to adult.

Exploring the Universe

4:00 PM at the Planetarium

Join us in the planetarium for a program exploring the sun, moon, stars, planets, and other aspects of the world of astronomy. Ages 7 to adult.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Young Planetarium

4:00 PM at the Planetarium

Calling all young astronomers! Join us in the planetarium and learn about the February night sky. Ages 4 to 10 and families.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Creature Feature

4:00 PM at the Nature Center

Calling all kids! Assist a ranger in feeding the Nature Center's live animals and learn about park wildlife. All ages welcome.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Be an Animal Athlete!

10:00 AM at Broad Branch Rd. and Rock Creek (Picnic Grove 2 West) Are you ready for the hawk stance, white-tailed high jump, and green frog hop? Whether this is your first, second, or third time doing the circuit, join the fun this Saturday morning on the two-mile Track Trail. Bring water and close-toed shoes. Be prepared to exercise. Ages 6 to 12 and families.

Rock Creek Conservancy Volunteer Event

10:00 AM

Assist the Rock Creek Conservancy and National Park Service in the battle against invasive, exotic plant species. Email kzeiter@rockcreekconservancy.org to register. Ages 16 to adult.

Winter Night Sky: Love in the Sky

1:00 PM at the Planetarium

Discover the brightest stars, planets, and constellations in the night sky this month and hear their love stories in honor of Valentine's Day! Ages 5 to adult.

African American Georgetown Walk

2:00 PM at Old Stone House

Explore stories of sacrifice, adversity, and success on this tour of Herring Hill, a vibrant 1800s black community in the heart of Georgetown. Ages 13 to adult.

Exploring the Universe

4:00 PM at the Planetarium

See description for February 2nd.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Fort DeRussy Hike

10:00 AM at the Nature Center

Join a ranger for a short hike to a Civil War fortress. Discover Fort DeRussy and the Battle of Fort Stevens on this one-mile roundtrip hike. Ages 9 to adult.

Winter Night Sky: When You Wish Upon a Star

1:00 PM at the Planetarium

See description for February 3rd.

Night Sky to Freedom 2:00 PM at the Planetarium

See description for February 3rd.

Exploring the Universe

4:00 PM at the Planetarium

See description for Sunday, February 3rd.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Young Planetarium

4:00 PM at the Planetarium

See description for February 6th.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Creature Feature

4:00 PM at the Nature Center

Assist a ranger in feeding the Nature Center's live animals and learn about park wildlife during this children's program. All ages welcome.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16

TREEific Trees!

10:00 AM at the Nature Center

Calling all young foresters! Plant your roots at the Nature Center this morning and discover your urban forest. Learn how to identify common trees and discover why trees are our friends through special games and activities. Ages 6 to 12 and families.



Before Venus and Serena Williams, there was Pete and Repeat Peters. Learn about these African American tennis stars of Georgetown and more during February's Black Georgetown Walk. Photo courtesy of the Library of Congress.

February Schedule of Events

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16 CONTINUED

Winter Night Sky: Love in the Sky

1:00 PM at the Planetarium

Discover the brightest stars, planets, and constellations in the night sky this month and hear their love stories in honor of Valentine's Day! Ages 5 to adult.

African American Georgetown Walk

2:00 PM at Old Stone House

Explore stories of sacrifice, adversity, and success on this tour of Herring Hill, a vibrant 1800s black community in the heart of Georgetown. Ages 13 to adult.

Exploring the Universe

4:00 PM at the Planetarium

Join us in the planetarium for a program exploring the sun, moon, stars, planets, and other aspects of the world of astronomy. Ages 7 to adult.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Winter Night Sky: When You Wish Upon a Star

1:00 PM at the Planetarium

Discover the brightest stars, planets, and constellations this month's night sky. Hear their stories in the only planetarium in the National Park System. Ages 5 to adult.

Night Sky to Freedom

2:00 PM at the Planetarium

Learn about the Underground Railroad and discover how enslaved African Americans used the night sky to escape northward during this 30-minute program in the planetarium. Ages 10 to adult.

Exploring the Universe

4:00 PM at the Planetarium

See description for February 18th.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Rock Creek Conservancy Volunteer Event

10:00 AM

Assist the Rock Creek Conservancy and National Park Service in the battle against invasive, exotic plant species. Email kzeiter@rockcreekconservancy.org to register. Ages 16 to adult.

Young Planetarium

4:00 PM at the Planetarium

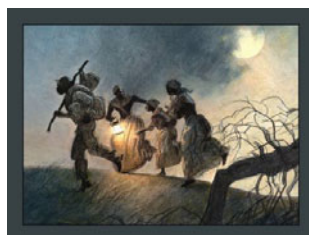
See description for February 13th.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Creature Feature

4:00 PM at the Nature Center

See description for February 15th.



What's inaccurate about this Underground Railroad painting? Find out during the Night Sky to Freedom program. Photo courtesy of history.helium.com.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Dumbarton Oaks Park Conservancy Volunteer Event

9:00 AM at Dumbarton Oaks Park

Join the Dumbarton Oaks Park Conservancy in the battle against invasive plant species. Remove non-native ivy from the naturalistic landscape of Dumbarton Oaks Park in Georgetown. Long pants and close-toed shoes required. Email aaldrich@dopark.org to register. Ages 16 to adult.

WHOO's Awake: All about Owls!

10:00 AM

at the Nature Center
Learn all about owls of Rock Creek Park and then dissect an owl pellet!

Ages 6 to adult.



What type of owl is this? Discover the world of owls on February 23rd. Photo courtesy of Scioto.ose.edu.

Winter Night Sky: Love in the Sky

1:00 PM at the Planetarium

See description for February 16th.

African American Georgetown Walk

2:00 PM at Old Stone House

See description for February 16th.

Exploring the Universe

4:00 PM at the Planetarium

See description for February 17th.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Night Sky to Freedom

2:00 PM at the Planetarium

See description for February 17th.

Winter Night Sky: When You Wish Upon a Star

1:00 PM at the Planetarium

See description for February 17th.

Exploring the Universe

4:00 PM at the Planetarium

See description for February 17.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Young Planetarium

4:00 PM at the Planetarium

See description for February 20th.

December 2012

Sun

Mo
n Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Rock Creek Park Fun Fact Did you know? The streetlights in the Nature Center parking lot do not cause light pollution. Their efficient design forces all the light downward instead of up into the night.						1 9:00 AM DOPC Volunteer Event 9:30 AM Civil War Round Table 10:00 AM Be an Animal Athlete! 11:30 AM Civil War Letters 1:00 PM Autumn Night Sky 4:00 PM The End of the World
2 12:00 PM—3:00 PM Colonial Christmas 1:00 PM Autumn Night Sky 4:00 PM Exploring the Universe	3	4	5 4:00 PM Young Planetarium	6	7 4:00 PM Creature Feature	8 9:00 AM DOPC Volunteer Event 9:00 AM RCC Volunteer Event 10:00 AM TREEific Trees! 12:00 PM Author Book Signing 1:00 PM Autumn Night Sky 4:00 PM The End of the World
9 12:00 PM—3:00 PM Colonial Christmas 1:00 PM Autumn Night Sky 4:00 PM Exploring the Universe	10	11	12 4:00 PM Young Planetarium	13	14 4:00 PM Creature Feature	15 10:00 AM Season's Greening 1:00 PM Autumn Night Sky 4:00 PM The End of the World
16 10:00 AM Fort DeRussy Hike 12:00 PM—3:00 PM Colonial Christmas 1:00 PM Autumn Night Sky 4:00 PM Exploring the Universe	17	18	19 4:00 PM Young Planetarium	20	21 4:00 PM Creature Feature	22 10:00 AM Be an Animal Athlete! 1:00 PM Winter Night Sky 1:00 PM RCC Volunteer Event 4:00 PM The End of the World
23 12:00 PM—3:00 PM Colonial Christmas 1:00 PM Winter Night Sky 4:00 PM Exploring the Universe	24	25 Happy Holidays! Park buildings closed.	26 4:00 PM Young Planetarium	27	28 4:00 PM Creature Feature	29 10:00 AM Saturday Morning Cartoons in the Planetarium 11:00 AM Zula Patrol 1:00 PM Winter Night Sky 2:00 PM Oasis in Space 2:30 PM Black Holes 3:00 PM Dawn of the Space Age 4:00 PM The End of the World
30 1:00 PM Winter Night Sky 4:00 PM Exploring the Universe	31					Like us on Facebook! Enter keywords "Rock Creek Park Nature Center"

January 2013

Sun

Mon Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Rock Creek Park Fun Fact Did you know? Francis Scott Key, the author of our national anthem, had a house along M Street, NW in Georgetown in the early 1800s. To learn more, visit Francis Scott Key Memorial Park at M Street and Key Bridge in Georgetown.		1 Happy New Year! Park buildings closed.	2 4:00 PM Young Planetarium	3	4 4:00 PM Creature Feature	5 9:00 AM DOPC Volunteer Event 9:30 AM Civil War Round Table 10:00 AM Nature in Winter 11:00 AM Tunes from the Frontline: Civil War Music 1:00 PM Winter Night Sky 4:00 PM Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star
6 10:00 AM History Hike 1:00 PM Winter Night Sky 4:00 PM Exploring the Universe	7	8	9 4:00 PM Young Planetarium	10	11 1:00 PM RCC Volunteer Event 4:00 PM Creature Feature	12 10:00 AM The Civil War for Kids 1:00 PM Winter Night Sky 4:00 PM Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star
13 10:00 AM Fort DeRussy Hike 1:00 PM Winter Night Sky 4:00 PM Exploring the Universe	14	15	16 4:00 PM Young Planetarium	17	18 4:00 PM Creature Feature	19 9:00 AM RCC Volunteer Event 10:00 AM Be an Animal Athlete! 1:00 PM Winter Night Sky 4:00 PM Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star
20 9:00 AM DOPC Volunteer Event 1:00 PM Winter Night Sky 4:00 PM Exploring the Universe	21 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	22	23 4:00 PM Young Planetarium	24	25 4:00 PM Creature Feature	26 10:00 AM Peirce Mill for Kids 1:00 PM Winter Night Sky 4:00 PM Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star
27 1:00 PM Winter Night Sky 4:00 PM Exploring the Universe	28	29	30 4:00 PM Young Planetarium	31		Like us on Facebook! Enter keywords "Peirce Mill Rock Creek Park"

February 2013

Sun

Mon Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

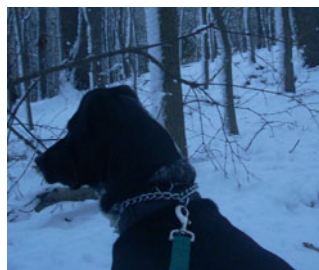
Rock Creek Park Fun Fact Did you know that Rock Creek Park is over twice the size of New York City's Central Park? At 2,900 acres, Rock Creek Park is one of the largest urban nature parks in the United States.		1			1 4:00 PM Creature Feature	2 9:00 AM DOPC Volunteer Event 9:30 AM Civil War Round Table 10:00 AM Colonial Games 11:00 AM Colored Troops 1:00 PM Love in the Sky 2:00 PM African American Georgetown Walk 4:00 PM Exploring the Universe
3 1:00 PM Winter Night Sky 2:00 PM Night Sky to Freedom 4:00 PM Exploring the Universe	4	5	6 4:00 PM Young Planetarium	7	8 4:00 PM Creature Feature	9 10:00 AM Be an Animal Athlete 10:00 PM RCC Volunteer Event 1:00 PM Love in the Sky 2:00 PM African American Georgetown Walk 4:00 PM Exploring the Universe
10 10:00 AM Fort DeRussy Hike 1:00 PM Winter Night Sky 2:00 PM Night Sky to Freedom 4:00 PM Exploring the Universe	11	12	13 4:00 PM Young Planetarium	14 Happy Valentine's Day!	15 4:00 PM Creature Feature	16 10:00 AM TREEific Trees 1:00 PM Love in the Sky 2:00 PM African American Georgetown Walk 4:00 PM Exploring the Universe
17 1:00 PM Winter Night Sky 2:00 PM Night Sky to Freedom 4:00 PM Exploring the Universe	18 9:00 AM MLK Jr. Day of Service with RCC	19	20 10:00 AM RCC Volunteer Event 4:00 PM Young Planetarium	21	22 4:00 PM Creature Feature	23 9:00 AM DOPC Volunteer Event 10:00 AM WHOO's Awake? All about Owls 1:00 PM Love in the Sky 2:00 PM African American Georgetown Walk 4:00 PM Exploring the Universe
24 1:00 PM Winter Night Sky 2:00 PM Night Sky to Freedom 4:00 PM Exploring the Universe	25	26	27 4:00 PM Young Planetarium	28		Like us on Facebook! Enter keywords "Fort Stevens Rock Creek Park."

Washington, D.C.'s newest street honors Elizabeth Thomas

District of Columbia Mayor Vincent Gray, Councilmember Muriel Bowser, Military Roads Preservation Trust Executive Secretary Patricia Tyson, and approximately 250 other citizens enjoyed the festivities at Lincoln-Thomas Day on September 22, 2012. Held at Fort Stevens, the annual event celebrates the life and legacy of Elizabeth "Aunt Betty" Thomas and President Abraham Lincoln's role in the Battle of Fort Stevens. The Federal Government built Fort Stevens on Thomas' property to protect the nation's capital during the Civil War. Fort Stevens was attacked by the Confederacy in July of 1864.

This year's Lincoln-Thomas Day celebration involved the official dedication of Elizabeth P. Thomas Way; presentations by African American Civil War Museum Curator Hari Jones and author Benjamin Franklin Cooling; performances by children's choirs; Civil War and Elizabeth Thomas reenactor presentations; street vendors; and more.

Interested in learning more about the Civil War in Rock Creek Park? Visit the Nature Center on the first Saturday of each month at 9:30 and 11:00 for unique programs.



Protect park wildlife and other pets by keeping your dog leashed. NPS Photo.



Civil War reenactors and Washington, DC Mayor Vincent Gray (far right) at Lincoln-Thomas Day. NPS Photo.

Speaking for the Leash

Did you know that every year, unleashed pets get lost in Rock Creek Park and are never found by their owner again? Sometimes, unleashed dogs even get injured or killed by wildlife. On the flip side, if you leash your dog they will be less likely to get lost or injured. Your dog will also be less likely to harass or injure park visitors, wildlife, and other dogs. Finally, failure to leash your dog—even friendly dogs—may result in a fine. So please, keep your dog leashed in Rock Creek Park.

And now for the good news. There are places in Washington, DC where it is legal to have dogs off leash. Visit this website to learn more: [visit http://dpr.dc.gov/DC/DPR/Facilities+and+Permits/Dog+Parks](http://dpr.dc.gov/DC/DPR/Facilities+and+Permits/Dog+Parks)

Kids Corner

Explore the TRACK Trail!

Calling all children and families! It's going to be cold this winter, but you can warm up on Rock Creek Park's newly designated TRACK Trail! The TRACK Trail is a .9 mile one way trail (1.8 miles roundtrip) specifically geared for kids. At the beginning of the trail, you can pick from four different self-guiding adventure brochures including Animal Athletes, The Need for Trees, Nature's Hide and Seek, and Birds of the Greater Washington, DC Area National Parks.



Rock Creek Park's TRACK Trail begins at Picnic Grove 2 West, located where Broad Branch Road NW meets Rock Creek. From here, you'll travel south past historic Peirce Mill through the Rock Creek Valley. The TRACK Trail is a great opportunity for you to exercise and enjoy the wide world of nature in your national park. After your hike, make sure to log on to www.kidsinparks.com and record your TRACK Trail adventure and maybe win a prize. Complete the TRACK Trail on your own or join a ranger on select Saturday mornings and become an Animal Athlete!

Learn about your national park: Become a Junior Ranger

Do you know what the similarity is between Yellowstone, Gates of the Arctic, Antietam Battlefield, Great Falls Park, the National Mall, and Rock Creek Park? They are all units of the National Park System, and they are all places that you can become an official junior ranger.

Next time you are at the Nature Center, Peirce Mill, or Old Stone House—or any national park unit—ask a ranger for a junior ranger booklet. By completing the book, you'll learn about the park and how to protect it. You'll also become an official Rock Creek Park Junior Ranger and get a badge!

Hey there, Scout!

Are you working towards a badge or a belt loop? We have programs that can help. We can also work with your troop or pack to create a specific program that fits your needs, whether it's nature, history or astronomy-based projects. We also have the scout stewardship program and Eagle Scout projects available. Contact Michael Zwelling at 202-895-6012 or Michael.Zwelling@nps.gov to learn more.

Hats Off to Park Volunteers

Park Volunteers Win Awards and Set New Records in 2012!

Rock Creek Park volunteers were nominated and won several awards at the National Park Service, National Capital Region's George and Helen Hartzog 2012 Volunteer Awards Ceremony in October...

- Rock Creek Park won the Outstanding Park Volunteer Program Award. The park's volunteer program is one of the most diverse and unique in the National Park System.
- Rock Creek Conservancy's Chesapeake Conservation Corps Intern Braeden Bumpers won the Outstanding Individual Volunteer Award. Braeden coordinated and participated in dozens of creek sweeps, tree planting, and invasive, non-native plant removal projects. He completed 1,500 hours of service in fiscal year 2012.
- Dumbarton Oaks Park Conservancy was nominated for the Outstanding Volunteer Group Award. This new friends group hit the ground running in 2012 and completed over 7,000 hours of volunteer work removing invasive, exotic species from Dumbarton Oaks Park in Georgetown.
- Rena Subotnik, Rock Creek Park Weed Warrior, was nominated for the Enduring Service Award. Dr. Subotnik cleared English ivy and other invasive, non-native plant species from a two-acre plot near the Melvin Hazin Tributary. Ephemerals are now growing in place of English ivy.

In addition to Rena, Braeden, Rock Creek Conservancy, and Dumbarton Oaks Park Conservancy, here's a very brief list of what other park volunteers did in 2012...

- A Spanish Language Community Outreach Volunteer researched, prepared, and presented environmental education, planetarium, and mill programs in Spanish to new audiences.
- Deer Management Interpretive Interns interpreted critical issues to the public through publications and informal programs.
- Friends of Peirce Mill Interpretive Volunteers introduced visitors to the 1820s water-powered gristmill by conducting hundreds of mill tours.
- Potomac Appalachian Trail Club volunteers maintained park trails by constructing water bars and removing downed trees.
- U.S. Park Police Volunteers and Rock Creek Park Horse Center Volunteers fed, groomed, and exercised horses; conducted horseback tours for visitors; and enabled disabled veterans to participate in a therapeutic riding program.
- Court-ordered Community Service Volunteers removed hundreds of pounds of invasive, non-native plant species (garlic mustard and Japanese stiltgrass), and provided cleaning services at Peirce Mill and the Nature Center.

Due to these volunteers and more, park-wide volunteer hours skyrocketed 66 percent above 2011 levels; the park set a new record with 37,000 volunteer hours in 2012. Thank you, volunteers, for protecting the natural resources in one of the largest urban nature parks in the nation and for enhancing the visitor experience.

Volunteer and Internship opportunities are available.
Email Scott_Einberger@nps.gov or call 202-895-6227 for more information.



Rock Creek Park volunteers pose for a group photo during the 2012 Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon and Recognition Ceremony. NPS Photo.

Learn about our steadfast park Partners!



The Alice Ferguson Foundation connects people to the natural world, sustainable agricultural practices and the cultural heritage of their local watershed through education, stewardship and advocacy. Visit fergusonfoundation.org.



The Dumbarton Oaks Park Conservancy seeks to restore one of America's ten greatest garden landscape designs: the 27 acre Dumbarton Oaks Park in Georgetown. Visit dopark.org.



Eastern National promotes the public's understanding and support of America's national parks by providing quality educational experiences, products, and services to visitors. Visit easternnational.org.

Friends Of
Georgetown
Waterfront Park

The Friends of Georgetown Waterfront Park works to support the maintenance of Georgetown Waterfront Park through fundraising. Visit georgetownwaterfrontpark.org.



The Friends of Peirce Mill works to raise awareness of and funding for the restoration of this early 1800s water-powered gristmill. Visit peircemill-friends.org.



National Capital Astronomers advances space technology, astronomy, and related sciences through information, participation, and Inspiration. Visit capitalastronomer.org.



POTOMAC
APPALACHIAN
TRAIL CLUB

The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, through volunteer efforts, advocacy and education, maintains the Appalachian Trail and other trails nearby for the enjoyment of present and future hikers. Visit patc.net.



Formerly Friends of Rock Creek's Environment, or FORCE, the Rock Creek Conservancy works to protect and restore Rock Creek and its waters, parks, and lands. Visit rockcreekconservancy.org.



The Student Conservation Association builds the next generation of conservation leaders and inspires lifelong stewardship of our environment and communities by engaging young people in hands-on service to the land. Visit thesca.org.



The Washington Tennis & Education Foundation improves the life prospects of DC-area youth, particularly those from lower-income communities, by providing athletic, academic, and life-skills activities that teach discipline, build confidence, and improve academic performance. Visit wtef.org.

Spotlight on Dumbarton Oaks Park Conservancy

The National Park Foundation, the official charity of America's National Parks, recently awarded the Dumbarton Oaks Park Conservancy a \$50,000 matching grant to complete restoration work in a historic American beech grove within Dumbarton Oaks Park in October 2013. The Conservancy has raised \$25,000 and must raise the remaining \$25,000 by May 1, 2013 to receive the grant. The restoration work will involve historic stonework restoration, stormwater management, invasive plant removal, and establishing a sustainable plant community. Visit the Conservancy's website, www.dopark.org, for directions to the park and how you can help with the restoration effort.

Spotlight on Rock Creek Conservancy

Thanks to the hard work of more than 70 volunteers, Rock Creek Conservancy planted 6,000 daffodil bulbs and wildflowers along Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway on Saturday, October 20. In the 1960s, Lady Bird Johnson spearheaded a beautification program for the capital region that included planting thousands of daffodils. The Conservancy worked with the National Park Service to restore and enhance part of this legacy. In a kidney-shaped bed about 120 feet by 30 feet, Conservancy volunteers planted 4,500 daffodil bulbs and 1,500 perennials, including wild blue indigo and purple coneflowers. Look for beautiful daffodils and wildflowers this spring and summer along the Rock Creek Park Multi-use Trail and the Parkway in the cloverleaf embankment where south-bound traffic exits to Pennsylvania Avenue, NW.



Rock Creek Conservancy volunteers planting daffodils along the parkway. Photo courtesy of the Washington Post.

The Faces of Rock Creek Park: Vernon Woodland

Meet Vernon Woodland, a staffmember of Rock Creek Park. Born and raised in the district, Vernon has served as a maintenance worker for the park since 1991. Recently, he was able to take some time out of his busy schedule and answer a few questions reflecting on his career.

As a maintenance worker, what are your job duties?

My job duty is essentially to provide maintenance to Rock Creek Park, specifically Meridian Hill Park and the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway. This includes sanitation, reporting unsafe conditions, cleaning up illegal dump sites, putting up snow fence, and moving office equipment. I also do landscaping work: grass cutting, weed trimming, pulling weeds, etc.

What is your favorite part about working in Rock Creek Park?

My favorite part of the job is interacting with the public and working outdoors in nature. When I engage with park visitors they always tell me how blessed I am to have this job. The thing I enjoy the most is making people happy and seeing them enjoy where I work.

What have been some of your greatest memories while working in the park?

I have several! One of the greatest was in 1994 when the entire crew from Rock Creek Park joined together to do some renovation work and prepare Meridian Hill Park for a dedication by President Clinton and actor Chevy Chase. After the dedication they both shook our hands; it was a great experience.

Another is that I have the opportunity to see the President and Vice President on a regular basis when their motorcades come up the parkway, not many people get to say that.

Finally, in 2001 when the Pentagon was attacked, my crew and I witnessed the smoke and fire while we were doing work on the parkway. It was an unforgettable moment.

Closing thoughts...

I really enjoy the experience and having the opportunity to work with the National Park Service, and I appreciate having the privilege of serving in the military for six years in the U.S. Marine Corps prior to working at Rock Creek Park. Both experiences have truly helped my life and my family.

Finally, people kid me about my last name.... Woodland and I work in the Woods!



Vernon Woodland. NPS Photo.

Contact Us

Nature Center & Planetarium

5200 Glover Road, NW
Washington, DC 20015
202-895-6070
Wednesday-Sunday
9:00 am — 5:00 pm

Peirce Mill & Barn

2401 Tilden Street, NW
Washington, DC 20015
202-895-6070
Saturday and Sunday,
10:00 am — 4:00 pm

Old Stone House

3051 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20007
Daily, 11:00 am — 6:00 pm

Rock Creek Park Golf Course

16th Street NW and Rittenhouse Street, NW
Washington, DC 20011
202-882-7332

Rock Creek Park Tennis Center

16th Street NW and Kennedy Street, NW
Washington, DC 20011
202-772-5949

Rock Creek Park Horse Center

5100 Glover Road, NW
Washington, DC 20015
202-362-0117

Thompson Boat Center

2900 Virginia Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20037
202-333-9543

Important Phone Numbers

Park Headquarters 202-895-6000
U.S. Park Police 202-610-7505
Special Use Permits 202-895-6013

Become a Friend of Rock Creek Park on Facebook.

Enter keywords:
"Rock Creek Park
Nature Center"



Be the first to know about special events and park news. Sign up to receive this free E-newsletter and schedule of events by emailing ROCR_superintendent@nps.gov.

Thanks for Reading!



Last Look



President Woodrow Wilson and First Lady Edith Bolling Galt Wilson. Did you know that the Wilsons often strolled hand in hand along Ross Drive in Rock Creek Park? After his first wife died in office, Woodrow fell into deep despair and depression until a secretary introduced him to Edith. The two immediately became smitten. Besides falling in love with his second wife, Wilson fell in love with Rock Creek Park. The president called it "the most beautiful thing in the United States."